## Canine Companions

Picture of a Canine Companion dog picking up a cell phone from the floor for a person in a wheelchair

### What can a business ask?

- "Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?"
- "What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?"

Learn more at canine.org/advocacy.

## A SERVICE DOG IS MORE THAN A VEST™

### Type of Dog: Service/Assistance Dog

- Definition: A dog trained in specific tasks that mitigate the handler's disability.
- Access Rights: Permitted with handler in any place the public is allowed.
- Training Required: Extensively trained to perform specific tasks to mitigate effects of handler's disability.
- What to Do If the Dog is Misbehaving: Must be in control at all times and behave in a safe manner. Aggression or continued misconduct can result in the dog's removal under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### Type of Dog: Puppy in Training

- Definition: A dog that is learning tasks for a handler with a disability or for a program that provides service dogs.
- Access Rights: With permission. Rely on goodwill of businesses for access to prepare the puppy for service. Some state laws permit equal access.
- Training Required: In the process of training and socialization to mitigate the effects of disability.
- What to Do If the Dog is Misbehaving: Must be in control at all times and behave in a safe manner. Puppies in training rely on the goodwill of businesses for access, but can be removed.

### Type of Dog: Facility Dog

- Definition: A dog trained in specific tasks to work with professionals and their clients in healthcare, visitation or educational settings.
- Access Rights: No public access. Permitted in the facility in which the team works.
- Training Required: Extensively trained to perform specific tasks to assist professionals to improve client outcomes.
- What to Do If the Dog is Misbehaving: Must be in control at all times and behave in a safe manner.

### Type of Dog: Emotional Support

- Definition: A dog or other animal whose sole function is to provide comfort or provide emotional support to its owner with a disability.
- Access Rights: Only allowed in the owner's home or dormitory as outlined in the Fair Housing Act.
- Training Required: Basic manners expected but none required by law.
- What to Do If the Dog is Misbehaving: No public access.

## Type of Dog: Therapy Dog

- Definition: A certified pet that provides comfort in an approved setting.
- Access Rights: Only with permission from the approved setting. Vests ONLY worn during approved visits.
- Training Required: Basic obedience and appropriate temperament expected.
- What to Do If the Dog is Misbehaving: No public access.